

12.

Statistics of Perineal Lateral and Median Lithotomy:

Being operations performed on male infants and boys in the
Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital
from 1864 to 1888.

BY
T. VINCENT JACKSON.



Reprinted from "The Lancet," August 24th, 1889.

London:
JOHN BALE AND SONS,
87-89, GREAT TITCHFIELD STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.

—
1889.

Statistics of Perineal Lateral and Median Lithotomy :

*Being operations performed on male infants and boys in
the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General
Hospital from 1864 to 1888.*

A FEW months ago my friend Mr. Reginald Harrison wrote to me with a request that I should supply Professor S. W. Gross, of Philadelphia, with a tabulated statement of all the cases of lateral and median lithotomy performed on infants and boys up to fifteen years of age in the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital. Mr. Gough, house surgeon, at some trouble grouped together all these particular cases of operation from the hospital books, and the list was forwarded to Professor Gross ; but his lamented death soon afterwards having doubtless prevented its publication, I feel that, as the record is one of practical interest and value, I ought no longer to refrain from making it known.

The table indicates that during a period of twenty-four years 132 perineal operations for stone in the bladder of boys, varying in age from one to fifteen years, have been performed in the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital, and that five of the patients died from causes sequential to the operation, two of these between the ages of one and five years, or one death in thirty-five cases, two between the ages of six and ten years, or one death in twenty-three and a half cases ; and one between the ages of eleven and fifteen years, or one death in thirteen cases. Of the whole number, the death-rate is one in a little over twenty-six cases, the mortality being between three and four per cent. The authenticity and correctness of this

record are undoubted. In our hospital the house surgeon acts as the surgical registrar, and the duty devolves upon him of entering in the operation-book every operation performed, with its result ; and as this book is inspected and signed at each monthly meeting of the Medical Committee, there is no chance of any error or misstatement being undetected or not corrected. Although to a considerable extent I am responsible for the performance of the majority of the operations, yet it must not be forgotten that the present series is not a personal one, but includes the operations of every member of the surgical staff since the year 1864, and as such it is a remarkable and an almost unique record, and it nearly beats the "barely five per cent. of deaths" of Cheselden, who cut 213 patients and lost ten.

Cases of Lateral and Median Lithotomy from 1864 to 1888, inclusive.

Age.	No. of cases.	Deaths.	Causes of death.
1 to 5 yrs. incl.	70*	2	(a) Aged two years. Death from shock 16 hours after operation ; very little hæmorrhage at the time or after operation. Stone weighed 10 gr. ; uric acid.
			(b) Aged three years. Severe shock after operation ; no bleeding. Stone weighed 47 gr. ; uric acid.
6 to 10 yrs. „	47*	2	(c) Aged nine years. Death on the 13th day from subacute peritonitis. Stone weighed 100 gr. ; urates combined with phosphate.
			(d) Aged seven years. Death 5 days after operation, from exhaustion. Stone weighed 312 gr.
11 to 15 yrs. „	13*	1	(e) Aged fourteen years. Death 2 days after operation, from secondary hæmorrhage. Stone weighed 130 gr. ; oxalate of lime.
15 yrs.	1†	0	—
11 yrs.	1†	0	—
—	132	5	—

* Lateral lithotomy.

† Median lithotomy.

I do not think it is desirable to lengthen this short paper by copying the lithotomy statistical tables and the conclusions which it is suggested are to be drawn from them, which are to be found in various published papers, monographs, text-books, and surgical treatises, as I wish these observations to be considered a contribution to the very important subject of perineal lithotomy in male children and boys, especially as at present the employment of other operative methods of dealing with this particular surgical disease is being strongly recommended to be adopted, as it were, to the effacement of that time-honoured operation for the removal of stone from the male bladder—viz., the great English surgeon's improvement of Frère Jacques' method.

Wolverhampton.

